

REMARKS

Applicants note that all amendments and cancellations of Claims presented herein are made without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments or rejections, and solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG),¹ and without waiving the right to prosecute the amended or cancelled Claims (or similar Claims) in the future.

In the Office Action mailed May 15, 2009, the Examiner required election of one of the following groups: Group I (Claims 1, 2 and 8) and Group II (Claims 3-7). The Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group II (Claims 3-7). Applicants herein cancel Claims 1, 2 and 8 in order to further their business interests and the prosecution of the present application, yet without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and while preserving the right to prosecute the canceled (or similar) claims in the future.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (618) 218-6900.

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